

1583 1583 589

gra, whereas I doe commaunde that they bee
brought forth with ropes about their necks,
with the voyce of a cryer, for to make mani-
fest their faulte, and so to bee carryed into the
publique and open place of this citie, where-
as they shall be hanged til such time as they
doe naturally die, and straighie waye to bee
quartered, and their quarters to be put in the
high wayes toward this citie. Also I do con-
demne the aforesayde in the losse of all their
goods, applying them as confiscate vnto the
chamber of his Maiestie, and that their sons
nor Heuues shall not enioy anye Ryall of-
fice. And I doe commaund that all suche mo-
ney that hath the name of Don Antonio Pri-
or of Ocrato, with the armes ryall, as false c-
uill and vsurped, to be burned in the publick
place of this citie, and not to bee currante in
these Flandes, and that no person doe vse the
same vpon payne of death. (And in the per-
formance of the same, they did burne the
sayd monny publique) And by this my last se-
tence definitive, I do pronounce & commaund
with costes, El Licenciado Mosquera, de
Figueroa.

Ano 1174

Relation

Amo

1583 1583 589

gra, whereas I doe commaunde that they bee
brought forth with ropes about their necks,
with the voyce of a cryer, for to make mani-
fest their faulte, and so to bee carryed into the
publique and open place of this citie, where-
as they shall be hanged til such time as they
doe naturally die, and straighie waye to bee
quartered, and their quarters to be put in the
high wayes toward this citie. Also I do con-
demne the aforesayde in the losse of all their
goods, applying them as confiscate vnto the
chamber of his Maiestie, and that their sons
nor Heuues shall not enioy anye Ryall of-
fice. And I doe commaund that all suche mo-
ney that hath the name of Don Antonio Pri-
or of Ocrato, with the armes ryall, as false c-
uill and vsurped, to be burned in the publick
place of this citie, and not to bee currante in
these Flandes, and that no person doe vse the
same vpon payne of death. (And in the per-
formance of the same, they did burne the
sayd monny publique) And by this my last se-
tence definitive, I do pronounce & commaund
with costes, El Licenciado Mosquera, de
Figueroa.

Ano 1174

Relation

Amo

(4)

A LETTER

Written by a French Catho-
like gentleman, to the Mai-
sters at Sorbonne.

CONCERNING

the late victories obtained by the
King of Nauarre, aswell against the
Duke of Ioyeuse at Coutras
vpon Tuesday the twentieth of
October, 1587. as
elswhere.



L O N D O N

Printed by John Wolfe
for Edward Aggas, and are to be
sold at his shope at the West end
of Paules. 1588.

W

LETTER

Written by a French Catholic
like gentleman, to the
• French •

CONCERNING

the • the •
King of France, •
Duke of •
•
October 1787 •
•

L O N D O N
Printed by •
for Edward •
•
of Paris 1788

A LETTER WRIT-
 ten by a French Catholike
 gentleman, to the maisters of
 Sorbonne at Paris: Concerning the
 late victories obtained by the king of Navarre
 as well against the Duke of Joyeuse at
 Coutras upon Tuesday the twentieth
 of October, 1587. as
 els where.



Maisters, I shal
 not be, as I thinke,
 the first reporter
 of the lamentable
 newes of the death
 of the Duke of
 Joyeuse, and the
 overthrow of his
 whole Armie: And so consequently
 may reioyce that I shal not be the au-
 thor of your heavinesse; albeit I will
 not neuertheless faile in the discharge
 of my dutie; neither bee the last that
 shall giue you aduice vpon so straunge
 an accident, to the end to tellisse vnto
 you, that for my dyne part I bewaile
 this publike calamitie; howbeit, not so

admirag

A 2

as

as to despair of whatsoeuer this heauy
 day hath left vs, but rather to seeke af-
 ter the most firme and stedfast kinde of
 hope, that we may and ought to con-
 ceive, to the ende to bring forth the
 peace of this miserable realme. In as
 much therefore as your selues are the
 most notable company among whome
 the principall point of the estate, name-
 ly religion, is intreated vpon, I doe di-
 rect my selfe especially to you, to the
 end you may iudge of my zeale, and if
 any profit may be taken thereof, you
 may impart the same to those that will
 harken after you for the vnderstanding
 of their saluation: also that it may bee
 the foundation whereupon againe to
 build by our ruines to the common re-
 liefe of the people, and the discharge of
 your consciences. But before I come
 to these remedies, I will lay open vnto
 you the new wounds that we haue re-
 ceived in the late battaile of Contras
 the twentieth of this moneth by the
 King of Nauarre, with the assistance of
 the Lords the prince of Conde, the
 Earle of Soissons, the Lord of Turen-
 ne, Trimouille, and other Lords and
 gentle,

gentlemen their partakers. The saide
King being returned from Monforeau
where he had happely sojourned for the
space of fiftene dayes or more after the
ouertaking of the troupes of the late D.
of Ioyeuse, and the Marquesse of Re-
nel as they retired from their voyage
of Poictou, also hauing through the
conduct of the L. of Turenne seized
vpon the rich carriages of the D. of
Mercoeur neare to Saumieur, who was
comming out of his gouernment of
Bretagne to ioyne with his brother in
law, the saide D. of Ioyeuse yet being
at Tours, and withall had receyued the
saide L. Earle of Soissons with all his
troupes: after (I say) that the said king
was thus vpon his return & led had his
armie into Saintonge, he tooke two
Cannons from Rochell, and in the
end determined to march into Ga-
scogne as well for the reenforcing of
his troupes, as to ioyne with his for-
raine power vpon the borders of those
prouinces that serued him. Now
because, as you know, that that was
the onely thing which the K. did most
feare, he gaue charge to the said D. of

Ioyeuse to stoppe this his course by all
 meanes possible, yea if all other oppor-
 tunities failed, not to spare the extre-
 mitie of the battaile, which he underta-
 ooke to performe, and to the same end
 marched with those troupes, which he
 had before, together with the other
 that his maiestie had newly granted
 him, as well for the better strengthe-
 ning, as to banish from him all feare of
 those that the k. of Nauarre did lead.
 The ground of this enterprise con-
 sisted in the passage over the riuers of
 Droune and L'Isle, and the most dili-
 gent to seaze thereon was to preclude
 law to the more slothfull. In respect
 hereof the saide D. of Ioyeuse after he
 had a while at the heeles followed and
 costed the k. of Nauarre his armie, in
 the end set forward towarde Roche-
 Chalays, intending according to the
 good aduise given him by the L. Mar-
 shal of Marignon to seaze upon Cou-
 tras, which was the place of most im-
 portance, in respect of the situation so
 favourable to the passage ouer Droune,
 but he lost his time by reason that as
 his light horsemen were armed and ta-
 king

king their lodgings, the K. of Navarre
 being the stronger came upon them,
 and became maisters thereof on Mond-
 day night the nyntenth of October.
 This beforis the said kings diligence
 which is the most necessarie parte in
 warrelike attempts, and the thing that
 hath byed him great credit among his
 partakers, his foier was also prejudicial
 all to the said D. of Joyeuse: who never-
 theles being desirous to yield at dutie
 of obedience to his maisters comma-
 ndements, and imagining that the K. of
 Navarre being inclosed betwene the
 two rivers, might be easily overcome,
 resolved the next day to give him bat-
 tle, and to the same end appointed
 his whole armie their meeting place
 betwene Roche-Chalays and Cou-
 tras, whither hee came early in the
 morning, at leisure and without any
 impeachment of the said kings troupes,
 and took his battaille ground within
 halfe a league of Coutras to his most
 advantage possible. The K. of Navarre
 as I was informed, having the first ad-
 vertisement thereof early enough in
 the morning, stayed until he had also

the second yeare and the third before he
 woulde once more, albeit hee made no
 lesse shew to be desirous of battaile than
 our selues: And in deed he had giuen
 his occasion twice before, which were
 found not to bee for our advantage.
 Howbeit, so soone as the saide M. was
 by these diuers reportes assured there-
 of, he took horse, and departing from
 Courras, went to meete the saide D.
 of Joyeuse, set his armie in battaile ar-
 ray, and in the meane time commaun-
 ded the B. of Clermont maister of his
 ordinance to passe it ouer unto his side
 of the riuer, which hee could not doe the
 day before. When hauing brought it
 into the fore front, he so ordered it that
 without anoying any of his own part,
 about eight of the clocke it played for
 eight or nine boles verie conueniently
 vpon the first Squadron of our horse-
 men, and so carried away a great num-
 ber of our gentlemen, which made the
 rest to resolute rather to goe to charge,
 then so miserably to dye without any
 fight. Thus about nyne of the clock our
 light horsemen with foure hundred
 horse gaue vpon the B. of Navarres,
 which

9

which after some blowes, was in the
end shaken and our men made glasse
windowes therein: the rest of the saide
kinges army consisted of foure square
battailes, wherof that of the D. of Tu-
renne was smelt to by the D. of Lauer-
dine. The other three wherin were the
three princes of the blood, keeping their
standing did behold the wyning, and by
and by after the D. of Joyeuse marched
furiously to the charge for the generall
conflict. whereto these three Princes
each in the face of his Squadron came a
soft pace, only vpon the trot as close and
with as good assurance as euer I see me
of warre march. When they came to
handy blowes, our men suddenly turned
their backes, whether it were that the
speares stopped them at the strait of the
conflict, or that we were reencountered
somewhat rudely. Finally, the fight
was sharpe and so violent that it conti-
nued the lesse while, and as warres are
vncertaine, the whole victorie remai-
ned with the king of Nauarre. And it
is a marvellous matter that by ten of
the clocke neuer a one of our men stood
to the fight, neither so much as appea-

red in the field, which lay covered with
a great number of the dead, and these
very notable. Such as escaped the ex-
tremitie of the weapons, either fleeing
with shame, or fell into their enemies
handes, some wounded and some not,
whereas in so notable an overthrow
there were lost on the king of Navarra
part very few, and not so much as any
one of name or commandment: but
of our part all the Captaines were ei-
ther wounded or slaine or taken, besides
the D. of Joyeuse the Generall, whose
only loss might suffice to make us ear-
nestly to lament, as for such a mishap
as hath striken a shewde blow at such
of our affaires as were ordered and
set by again by the king under the con-
duct of his fortune. Doubtless it is also
replenished with infinite other our losses,
whereby we have the lesse meanes left
to helpe us to rise againe from so mis-
erable a fall. I will name unto you the
most notable of those y^e I can remem-
ber that are slaine, to the end that con-
sidering of them, you may the better
contemplate this mishap which shall
peradventure be but the way to many

more whereunto we dm runne, if God
withhold he not.

Amongst our dead there are besides
the D. of Ioyeuse, the L. of Saint Sau-
our his brother, the L. of Bressay who
carried the white Cornet. The L. of
Ronsay the yonger Pierre Guidon to
the said D. of Ioyeuse. The Charles of
Suz, Gouuelo, & Aubigeou, the L.
of Fumell, the L. of Neufuy the elder
of Perigord, Croyset sonne to the L. of
Rochfort, the L. of Gurat Cornet of
Maumont, The L. of St. Fort Guidon
to the L. of St. Luc. The L. of Vaux
Lieutenant to the L. of Bellegarde.
The L. of Montignyes Ensigne, Tier-
celin maister of the field, Chenet his
chiefe Captaine, Vallade one of his
Captaines, Captain Bacellard, yong
Campels, who carried a cloth. The L.
of Pluvault and Brangerie, al Officers
in our army. More there were whom I
cannot well call to minde: but my
masters, those were brave Gentlemen,
those were the kings god servants:
those were the god pillars of our coun-
tre, whom we have lost in this battel.
whose death doeth also make our lines

so wretched, that undoubtedly they are
 happier than we that breathe forth this
 aire that is infected with our miseries.
 I thinke that they whom this losse doth
 most concern, should also be most touch-
 ed with the griefe that they ought to
 conceaine therof: and your selfes doe I
 account so affectionate to the benefit
 of your country that for your partes
 you will powre forth a whole river of
 teares which will not bee dryed up in
 great while, considering that the losse
 which you receiue doe stretch so farre,
 and spredeth farther than the most
 passionate can well imagine. Wee doe
 well know what assurance we had con-
 ceined, that all should haue succeeded as
 therwise to vs then it hath done, wher-
 by wee are to bee the more sorry because
 we were deceined. And albeit Gods
 will was apparant therein, also that it
 were our partes rather to yeeld thereto
 than to murdure against it, yet can I
 not but feele that such was the pleasure
 of God, to the end sharply to punish vs
 for reposing more trust in our fleshy
 arme then in his mightie power, yet
 and which is more, because we haue
 fought

fought and neuer asked counsell at the
 mouth of the Lord. Would you haue
 any moze notable testimentes to con-
 firme my saying, then the death of this
 brave nobilitie? The same is but too
 sufficient to wrest from you this belief;
 and if you do but beholde the rest that
 remaineth captiue with the king of
 Nauarre, you shal as a man would say
 see our sorrow moze liuely, as if their
 captiuitie should vncaine those mis-
 chiefes which come in poste to our op-
 pression. The most notable of them wil
 I also name vnto you. There is the L.
 of Bellegarde, Gouvernoꝝ of Xantonge
 and Angoumois, who was wounded,
 taken and since deceased. The L. of S.
 Luc, Gouverneur of Brouages & of the
 Isles of Xantonge taken. The Mar-
 quesse of Piennes; The Earle of Mon-
 foreau wounded and taken. The L. of
 Sansac taken. The L. of Cypierre, The
 L. of Saultray of the house of Lude.
 The L. of Montigny Captaine of the
 kings gate. The L. of Ville Comblin
 Lieutenant to the L. of Souuray. The
 L. of Castle Renaud Guidon to the
 L. of Sansac; The L. of Maumot Cap-
 taine

aine of the light Horse. The L. of Pa-
 triere Guidon to the L. of Lanerdin,
 The L. of Ould Castle. The L. Cha-
 Relu. The L. of Lanuerdiere Guidon
 to the L. of Suze. All these were Cap-
 tains & men of authoritie, & so acknow-
 ledged of all; among whom I reckon
 not the Captaines of the footmen, nei-
 ther many other private Gentlemen
 that had no charge, and are either ta-
 ken, wounded or slaine. As for those
 that yet live, it may be ye shall hereaf-
 ter haue some comfort of them, as ho-
 ping they may retorne into the kings
 seruice: but I do much feare their com-
 ming to the speech of y^e king of Nauar,
 whose particular seruants they all, or
 the most of them, haue long been, neither
 did euer beare armes against him, but
 against their willes: such at the least
 are their ordinary protestations, which
 in effect they haue often confirmed. Yea
 did they beare but one sparke of good
 affection to the said king of Nauarre,
 he is skillfull enough thereof to kindle a
 whole flame: so shall he winne from vs
 these reliques of our ruines, where with
 to preuaile against our selues, if not di-
 rectly

rectly against vs, yet indirectly for him
 selfe, but not for vs. For you know
 what a voice is generally given out of
 his wonderfull grace in winning mens
 minds and quenching the malice of his
 enemies, in case hee can but once come
 to let them taste of his courtesie. Wee
 may belieue that most of these our ma-
 sters being so much bounde vnto him,
 will hereafter continue their bonds, al-
 so that there be but few amongst them
 to whom the curtesies of this Prince
 may not prescribe whatsoeuer lawes
 he list. In the meane time he shall haue
 his passage free: For as for the L. Mar-
 shall of Matignon, how good a servant
 so euer hee be to the king, hee is tied to
 Gascoigne: and besides his forces are
 not sufficient to stop the said king from
 executing whatsoeuer his purposes as
 easily as he would wish, neither can he
 at this day desire or put in execution a-
 ny thing whatsoeuer with greater ho-
 nour, hauing obtained such a brane vic-
 tory against vs, which is perfect in all
 notable parts. The death and impris-
 onment of all the chiefe Captaines, ex-
 cept the L. of Lauerdia who seeing our
 conflict

confild a far off, went to save him selfe
 and few others, the winning of the
 field, the taking of the artillery, the bur-
 ning of our armies lodgings, the chase
 pursued foure leagues, and a thousand
 other particularities which I heere o-
 mit. Concerning the king of Nauarre,
 I haue heard credibly reported that hee
 was one of the sharpest in fight, & buck-
 led earnestly, yea so farre forth as by
 force to cary away Chasteau-renauds
 Cornet, also to haue receiued a taint in
 the necke with a speare & other blowes
 that bzuised his hands and face. To be
 brieife, that hee shewed himselfe a Cap-
 taine in ordering his battailes and a
 souldier in fight. As for the Prince of
 Conde that hee fought valiantly & had
 one horse killed vnder him, also that be-
 ing horsed againe he took the L. of B.
 Luc prisoner who had before borne him
 downe. That the Earle of Soisons in
 this first reencounter shewed so good
 prouise of his courage that he greatly re-
 contented his partakers & gaue them good
 hope of himselfe, so he toynd earnest-
 ly, and with his owne handes took the
 Marquesse of Piennes prisoner, so as
 these

these three Princes fighting with their
 enemies, fought so reciprocally whose
 vertue should best appears, that they
 haue no cause one to enuy an other, sith
 they all shewed all duetie according as
 the occurrences ministred occasiō, Nei-
 ther is it to be doubted, but these so as-
 surred Captaines did greatly assure their
 members, among whom the Il. of Tu-
 renne also had his horse slaine in the
 battell and entered verie farre, as also
 did the Il. of Trimouille who was no-
 ted of great courage and assurance in
 the front of his light hoysenmen. Finally
 that there was no troope in all their ar-
 my but had a share in the glozie of our
 ouerthrow. Herein haue wee cause to
 be sozry, sith the hurt that we do to them
 do but prouoke our men, and that either
 early or late they will finde meanes to
 requite vs: howbeit at this time it is
 much more then a requitall, neither is
 there any comparison betweene all the
 harme that we haue done them, yea al-
 beit you set together all that haue hap-
 pened since the beginning of the trou-
 bles, and the same which wee haue re-
 ceined in this battell. One onelie short

day hath recompenced all that they haue
 lost in two yeres and a halfe, which is
 the time since the league was reuealed,
 and as farre as I see, wee are yet farre
 in their debts. We haue scene all the
 mightie armies which the king hath
 sent out of all þe prouinces of the realme
 to make an ende. But shew mee now
 what fruit hath come of them? The tak-
 ing of towne: wee haue taken none
 but such as they made no great account
 to keepe, and all but loures which were
 neuer, as a mā should say, of any name,
 but through mishap. And how haue we
 gotten them: with large time, exces-
 siue expences, and a world of laboꝝ and
 pollitice, which heeretofore would not
 haue been practised at the siege of Metz,
 S. Quintins, and other good Townes
 in our daies. What haue we gained?
 we haue taken nothing by assault, and
 all our sieges haue ended by profitable
 and honourable composition for the be-
 sieged. Neither haue our sieges any
 whit diminished their number, sith the
 lawes of warre haue freed them from
 the fury of our weapons. And which is
 woꝝse, Castillon the Duke of Mayns
 proudest

proudest trophée, the taking whereof
 cost six weekes worke and six hundred
 thousand francs hath the Lord of Tu-
 renne recovered in one houre, & with-
 out any expense. The king of Navarre
 hath in lesse then three weekes taken
 Tallemôt, S. Messan, Fontenay, Mail-
 lezay, Mauleon, & five or six good Ca-
 stles more. The said D. of Joyeuse
 came to recover these losses, but hee
 spent most of his time in preparatines,
 and in the end at the siege of S. Mailla
 was obliged to discharge 113. Cannon
 shot, against y^e which it had not cost the
 said king two hundredth Harquebuz
 shot, and had it not bene for the over-
 throw that the said D. of Joyeuse gaue
 to the Mothe of his two regiments of
 Colliers and Clounes, together with
 the controuersies among the besieged,
 we had not had it so soone or so easily. As
 for Maillezay which the said Duke of
 Joyeuse also toke, he did rather surprize
 then take it, besides that the smal num-
 ber of souldiers therein feared his pur-
 poses. But Fontenay was of ouer hard
 digestion, & the Catholike forces gaue
 place to the Protestants, of whom was

made so small account. And whereas there died a good number of them, as could not be otherwise chosen, so if wee peruse the rooles of our army, we shal find, & the rule of subtraction may seeme sufficient to finde out our accounts. The sword, the bad weather, pouertie, pestilence or other diseases haue taken away so many that wee haue but fewe left to habandon to the like mishappes: and the woorst is, wee neuer seeke to spare, but rather doe seeme to practise this detestable saying: Let our friends perish, so as our enemies may perish also. Moreover, wherein are their affaires empaired? Wee haue kept the field, but how? For the most part in such seasons as the retraite into the Townes had bene moze fit and safe against the iniuries of wind and snow: in such a season I say, as albeitt they had bene as well able to haue kept the field as we, yet had it been wisdom to habandon it vnto vs, so to suffer vs to consume our selues, with a million of inconueniencies which fought against vs, although they meddle not at all. Likewise when the time fauoured our
 boys,

voyages, besides that the same was but
 ouer short, we haue found such resistance
 in them, & they haue giuen vs so small
 hold, that our selues haue beaten our
 selues with our owne paines, and haue
 reaped but the dishonour of doing no-
 thing, and blame for working too much
 mischief: and to be briefe, all our fires
 are in the ende conuerted into smoake
 which hath choked vs. The raising vp
 of our bucklers were haughtie, but
 when we came to the matter & to take
 hold, wee brought forth nothing but
 confusion & disorder, wherein the king
 of Nauarres part hath bene rather vp-
 held then shaken, so as we seeme to bee
 but the winds which breake vpon their
 constancy or magnanimitie. Twentie
 yeares ago & more might I haue lear-
 ned how hard a matter it was utterly
 to ouerthrow him: but I neuer thought
 it vnpossible vntill these our last trials,
 wherein he hath taught vs that hee ei-
 ther is a greater one then wee, or else
 that he hath more supporters then wee
 haue force: or both. I will not be asha-
 med to confesse that at the beginning of
 these troubles our great preparatiues

for war against him did make me sted-
 fastly to believe that hee could haue no
 means to keep himselfe from vs, where-
 vpon my selfe as well as many other
 did according to my duetie bring in
 whatsoeuer I was able together with
 my own person: and notwithstanding
 all our delaies and the lingering of our
 purposes, yet did I not neuertheles dis-
 paire of good successe: but now am I
 forced to pluck my pin from the stake,
 and earnestly to open mine eyes to per-
 ceive the causes of our misfortune, to-
 gether with the necessitie of a farther
 cause of mischief, wherof this late one
 is but the first, or at the least the most
 apparant beginning. Not my masters
 that I will resemble those foules which
 so soone as colde weather cometh on
 doe habandon euerie climate, by anie
 rash alteration of my wil which so long
 and resolutely I haue alwaies kept.
 For I protest, that of all the reasons
 that may bee imagined in this noueltie
 I do admit onely the same which set-
 teth before me the preservation of that
 estate, for the which so farre I am from
 all feare of the losse of my first pretence,
 that

that I wish rather to lose my selfe: and
 in the name of God doe exhort you so
 wel to try my aduice, that you may al-
 low therof, and ensuing the same, shew
 so good an example to the rest of Frāce,
 that sith your selues are the light that
 should lighten vs, this estate may also
 by your meanes recover her auncient
 brightnesse, and this oppressed people
 perfect reliefe from all their afflictions.

To enter therefore into the matter,
 my selfe haue alwaies beene through
 zeale to religio thrust forward, & when-
 soeuer there fell out any speech of the
 defence thereof, I came as hotely as
 might be desired. Now this religion I
 alwaies held in such sort as I receiued
 of my pzedecessors, and as I account it
 true saluation of my soule, I preferred
 it before all other whatsoeuer worldly
 considerations. Wherein I was confir-
 med not onely by this domesticall ex-
 ample, but also by that doctrine which
 your selues haue alwaies deliuered vn-
 to vs, referring al that possibly I might
 vnto y^e authoritie which long you haue
 obtained and kept among our nation.
 I will not bee ashamed to say that in

this case I haue willingly reposed my
 selfe vpon you, as imagining that you
 would not damne your selues in sport,
 as also that in so good company I could
 not doe amisse. In consideration wher-
 of I neuer troubled my selfe much a-
 bout the search into the depth of these
 misteries and difficulties wherein your
 schoole is as it were plunged, leaning
 to you the arguing in wordes, and reser-
 uing to my selfe the decisions in action,
 wherewith as neede required, to yeeld
 authoritie to your decrees, and for my
 part stoutly to oppose my selfe against
 all those that woulde withstand you,
 howbeit vnder the authoritie of the so-
 ueraigne magistrate, to whom I neuer
 doubted of my due obedience. Hereup-
 on I alwaies supposed that our warre
 was not lawfull against al such as shot
 against you and sought to subuert your
 doctrine, accounting them verie here-
 tikes & Apostataes from the Church,
 with whom we were to strine even for
 life, considering that their opinions did
 for the most part kill vs, by rauishing
 from vs through their forwardnesse,
 that which I supposed you had impar-
 ted

ted vnto vs in sincere and faithful con-
 sciences. For this which I haue often
 heard you say, did I take for an infal-
 lible principle: that is to say, That our
 Church can not erre, also, that to ac-
 cuse you of error, was such an error
 as deserved to be pursued with fire
 and sworde. Thus was I neuer of a-
 ny other mind, but that we had a most
 firme and moze than necessarie foun-
 dation euery way to persecute those
 whom men tearme Protestants. So
 presumptuous a title could not I like
 of: & as in these latter ages, Gods spirit
 thzeatneth vs with sundrie seducers, so
 haue I alwaies accounted these men
 to be, whereupon I haue detested their
 companies: so farre haue I bene from
 sparing, whatsoener I could possibly
 doe, to vse against them all rigors
 whereby to roote them out. For this
 cause doe I make great account of the
 deuotion which diuers of our kinges
 haue at sundrie times shewed. But
 seeing that the moze we strue, the moze
 this people increase: the large expert-
 ence of these affaires maketh mee the
 moze slacke in these matters, and their
 late

late victorie which God hath giuen them, causeth me to imagine that hee doth wholly fauor their cause; also that whatsoeuer crosses hee doth by our hands lay vpon them, hee doth neuer thelesse reserve vnto them a happie & a comfortible end. Disorder (saith a certaine auncient) breedeth good decrees, and the reiteration of our transgressions when wee finde them doe worke vs, to our knowledge, wisdom: yea the apprenticeship of our owne losses is more strong and forceable then that which proceedeth of others harmes.

I doe therefore willingly suffer my selfe to be carried away with that whole effects doe teach me to proceede further, not that I will search out all the contentious pointes betwene the one and the other: for as yet I haue not taken so much paines: but onely in respect of the proceedings vsed against their persons and goods. First you are all to debate in matter of religion: you differ in sundrie articles, and yet doe agree in the ground, which is, one onely Iesus, Christ mediator betwene

sweene God and man, and sole head
 of the Chruch. I pray you, is this a
 matter to be decided by your murders?
 is it such a controuersie as may bee so
 determined: how can you graunt life
 to his soule, whose bodely life you haue
 taken away: how can you saue those to
 whom you graunt no time to belieue:
 or how would you haue them to be-
 liene without preaching vnto: These
 be the ordinarie complaints where-
 with they vsually appeale from our
 pursutes, which notwithstanding they
 seeme iust, yet doe we stop our eares a-
 gainst them as against the maremaids
 song. But why doe you denie them
 all friendly conference for the decision
 of your controuersies: I know you
 will answere that it is a matter that
 hath already beene preferred, and yet
 hath not profited. But the Lawiers
 haue taught me, that whatsoeuer hath
 beene fraudulently done, is accounted
 as wonne: for in all our assemblies our
 proceedings haue beene vnperfect, for
 p^roofe whereof I referre my selfe to the
 acts of the Councel of Trent, and late-
 ly to the parley at Poyssy. Concerning
 the

the first, there was neuer action moze
 impertinent, then that wherein they
 were condemned, and yet neither were
 or could be heard, considering that their
 aduersaries were also their iudges: as
 also your selues doe know, that the
 French Church did neuer in all and
 through all allow of it, witnesse the ap-
 peales there against made: albeit I say
 nothing of the opposition of our kings,
 whereby this counsaile may not be ad-
 mitted as irrenocable in Fraunce: o-
 therwise we shall reueale our partia-
 litie in ruling their condemnation after
 our owne fantasies, and not according
 to the nullitie of the iudgement which
 vndoubtedly is generall, vntill by the
 refozmation of those articles which we
 allow not, there can bee no fault found
 therein. For otherwise by taking and
 leauing what wee list, wee shoulde
 play too open. Such also the like
 p^riuiledge groweth of the same reason,
 why will you not suffer the professours
 of the pretended refozmed religion to
 enioy the like libertie of iudgement as
 your selues? As for the parley at Poyf-
 sy I remember that the chiefe contro-
 uersie

uersie which concerned the sacrament
 of the altar, was in a manner agreed:
 also that looking into our owne con-
 sciences, wee shall finde that our owne
 partakers vpon a politike discretion
 interrupted it, lest the overthrow of
 that foundation shoulde haue pulled
 downe the whole building. Euer since
 that time, I imagined that it was well
 doone to sticke to antiquitie, but since
 calling to mind that the ministers plea-
 ded their cause out of the holy scrip-
 tures and the auncient Doctors con-
 for:mable thereto, I can not thinke but
 that, except in respect of the time, in
 case they verifie their allegations, they
 can not be but well grounded, and con-
 trariwise, that if wee speake but of the
 opinion of our Popes only, who besides
 for the most part haue not bene the ho-
 nestest men in the world, we shall lose
 our cause outright. But when I doe
 moze nearely consider of your selues, I
 doe runne into some further mistrust:
 for can you that professe the understan-
 ding and teaching of the scriptures,
 want iudgement to comprehend them,
 or fidelitie to deliuer them? Shall these
 refo:

reformed persons haue that priuiledge
 aboue you, to whome it hath beens
 purchased so long agoe: Are you lear-
 ned like to those high priestes mentio-
 ned in the holy scriptures, among
 whom Gods law was perished: Will
 God conceale his mysteries from your
 greatnes, and reueale them to their
 basenes? Can you forge vnto your
 selues anie Cabal in lew of the doctrine
 of Gods spirite? Haue the subtilties of
 the serpent made you to rebell against
 your creato? I dare not imagine thus
 much of you, albeit your aduersaries
 doe sufficiently cast it in your teeth.
 But I coulde rather wish them to ab-
 staine from imiring of you, and to bee
 content simply to expound their owne
 sayings, as also that you did the like by
 them: howbeit you haue growne so far
 into wordes with them, that we haue
 beene at handblowes for your sakes,
 whereby these bzaules doe seeme to bee
 the more irreconcilable, wherein I
 said that hether to we haue taken a ve-
 rie wrong course, in ministring a co-
 siue to the wound befoze we tryed such
 suppliant ointments as might perad-
 uenture

menture haue yelded some ease. The
 mischief was but in breeding, but we
 through our hasty and headlong proce-
 dings haue suddenly brought it to extre-
 mitie: so that in lew of appeasing these
 troubles of the Church, wee haue also
 brought in the troubles of the State;
 as if our peace depended onely vpon
 confusion: yea we haue so shuffled the
 Cardes, that we can not finde againe
 the principall. We all haue beene for-
 ced to grow so obstinate in your obsti-
 nacies, that for the preserving of you,
 some haue hazarded, and others quite
 lost them selues: for the maintaining of
 your rents, we haue spent our owne:
 for your amitie, we haue entred enmi-
 tie with our owne kinsmen: vnder the
 pretence of the honour of God, men
 haue shamefully entreated men: to be
 briefe, Religion hath caused vs in the
 insolencies of our warres to treade all
 religion vnder foote: also whereas it
 had bene more mete and profitable
 gently to haue reduced those that were
 strayed, to the folde, wee haue beene
 their butchers. In lew of shewing the
 way to those that went amisse, wee
 haue

haue thrust them into the mire: in lew
 of presenting Ioseph vnto Iacob, wee
 haue shewed onely his garment stain-
 ed in bloud, whiles him selfe mour-
 ned in the pitte: in lew of receyuing
 the angels with the conuersion of these
 miserable persons, we haue made them
 sorrowfull through their deathes, ne-
 uerthelesse, God desireth not the death
 of a sinner, but rather that he may bee
 conuerted and liue. The holy Ghost
 speaketh of the spirituall death, where-
 of we are the cause when we preuent
 their repentance with their destruc-
 tions. What profit haue you found in
 giuing vs counsell, euen from the be-
 ginning to take arme against the pre-
 tended reformed? Did you not meane
 that they should haue bene rooted out
 and we preserved? haue yee your de-
 sires? Are not you, I pray you, guiltie
 of the deathes of so many as vpon sim-
 plicitie haue followed your counsels?
 with what consciences doe you slaye
 vs to kill others? are not you the execu-
 tioners to both parties? see you not
 that in lew of diminishing their num-
 ber you lessen ours? that wee lose as
 many

many friendes on our owne partes as
 enimies of theirs: that we can not wea-
 ken them without weakening of our
 selues: what profit is there in this e-
 qualitie? They render you blow for
 blow: assault for assault: battell for bat-
 tell: victorie for victorie: and in the end
 you are alwaies forced to accept of
 their conditions of peace: yet is there
 nothing that can make vs giue over.
 We still play the kites with their bo-
 wels, which neuerthelesse doe dayly
 grow vp againe: we ordinarily draw
 away their blood, which neuer dryeth
 vp: and which is worse, we still incurre
 as much losse as we procure them, and
 consuming our enimies, doe wast our
 owne blood, and yet can not perceiue
 that you be any whit moued at our mi-
 series, as if our labours were your rest,
 and our sorowes your contentation:
 you laugh when others weepe, and ne-
 ver cease thrusting forward the wheele
 of these calamities, whereby to assure
 your felicitie. But I can not finde
 that we haue any profit in all this, and
 I wonder that our long expence which
 we haue had these twentie or twentie

and five yeares can not instruct vs in our lesson. This is the seventh ciuill warre that wee haue leagued against these reformed, and yet we are now to beginne. True it is that we haue won some victozies, but all is but vanitie: if we haue gotten the field, alas! wee haue seene it couered likewise with a great part of our owne men: and returning into our tents, wee haue heard the mournings at our owne families. At our departure thence, what haue we done but made warre to the end to purchase peace: what is become of all our purposes to roote out this people whom wee haue found so resolute in their defence? we haue returned thence into our closets then with shame and misfortune: then haue we sodden them againe, but they that haue endenoured to digest them, haue found them to bee but fish. And yet are we so farre bewitched, as among all these diseases to thinke that we be in health: still there are some firebrands readie to kindle our dissentions, and they that shoulde cast on water, doe poure on oyle, brimstone, and pitch, least the fire should goe out.

out. When I examine all these proceedings, I leane to the persecuted, and in my doubt of religion, I doe the more fauor their cause because of the onely token of persecution. Thus haue I learned to iudge by a place that lately I redd in S. Hierom heretofore, one of the famous priests of the Romish Church. He (saith he) that is pursued, doth imitate Christ, but he that pursueth or persecuteth is Antichrist. Not that I meane to iustifie all those heretikes whom our kinges haue suppressed, as the Gothes who were Arians, and of late the Anabaptists, for they were monsters, of whom the first subuerted the groundes of our saluation, namely the diuinitie of Jesus: an intollerable case among Christians, and yet the warre that hath beene leauied against them, had other foundations than religion. The Anabaptists besides their apparant errors in religion did also peruert the right of magistrates, and both the one and the other were by one consent condemned euen in the most reformed Churches. As for the Albigeois following such ancient

recozdes as I haue found contrarie to
 the writings of our Historiographers,
 I feare they were oppressed rather vpon
 stomacke then equitie. But I wil
 leane thole passed examples and come
 onely to the reason of things present.
 I could well like to haue our Church
 purged from heresies and heretikes:
 but I must withall mislike the pollu-
 ting of it with our owne blood: neither
 can I thinke these so violent meanes
 to be either lawfull or sufficient. Iesus
 Christ tooke a whippe to drine the mo-
 ney chaungers out of the temple, but
 wee are farre inough from doing the
 like. For those men did not falsifie the
 Law, or the Prophets: but verie vn-
 fitly, they made the house of God
 which was ordained onely for prayer,
 their market place. They did abuse
 the holy place, with profane traffike,
 and so consequently this punishment
 of Iesus Christ was but politike. Con-
 sidering that in the meane time he was
 ordinarily counterfaint among Priests,
 Scribes, and Pharisees, entreing and
 disputing in their Synagogues, and yet
 neuer laying hand vpon them, albeit
 they

they were the verie falsifiers of the doctrine of Moyses and the Prophecies of his own coming. Our sauior Christs kingdom is not of this world: the weapon wherewith he fighteth with his enemies, are spirituall: neither is his salvation purchased by mans arme: how much more necessarie then were it to defend religion by the true vnderstanding of the scriptures, by reformation of our liues, by prayers and holy deuotion to the seruice of God, by teaching the ignozant, setting reasons against opinions, and antiquitie against noueltie: and to be bzielse, by hearkening to the voice of our shepeheard, in lew of those who to the end to bewitch vs with their dreames doe shroude themselves vnder that title: This is the cause, why from henceforth I doe protest to depart from these cruelties which are but too ordinarie among vs, and to begge pardon of the God of mercie, whom I beseech with the truth of his word to shine into the bottomlesse gulches of my ignozance, to the end that leaning no longer to the outward shew of men, I may behold the righteousness

of this cause, for the which these poore
 reformed persons doe so long and so
 constantly abide whatsoever the tor-
 ments to them afforde: notwithstanding
 all our torments, they shake not,
 and that is it that shaketh me, yea and
 I wonder that the losse of their goods,
 maketh them not to abandon their re-
 ligion. Their benefit must be verie
 great, sith so many calamities can not
 make them to giue it ouer: and we may
 well say, that they haue a verie bright
 and large knowledge, in that notwith-
 standing whatsoever hope of domesti-
 call ease we propound, they can neuer
 mistake. I see them lurke in euerie
 place, depriued of their rents, and be-
 sieged with a thousand necessities, and
 yet can neuer be banished their assem-
 blies and patient bearing of their opres-
 sions. Surely they are not so senselesse
 as vpon pleasure to suffer so many in-
 conueniences, so that of necessitie they
 must bee incited and strengthened by
 some stronger matter then the frailtie
 of this world. Willingly could I ioine
 with Gamaliel, and say, That if this
 reformed religion be of God, it is in
 vaine

vaine for man to labour to destroy it, if it be not of him, it will vanish of it selfe. **H**owbeit, I seeke not to take the sword from the magistrate, but gladly I would beat iudgement into his head, wherby he might discerne the bonds of his duetie: for it is not inough to doe a mans duetie, but he must doe it conueniently, according to the circumstances of time, place and persons which are the ordinarie rules of our actions. Extreame law is extreame iniurie, say the lawyers, and that vpon good reason. Nothing can be moze iust then to punish the rebels of a common wealth, as men guiltie of treason: but it may so happen that this iustice may be pernicious, and as a man may say, vniust. If the whole bodie of a towne or prouince shoulde rise against their Soueraigne, yet if they should fall againe into his hands, he ought to preferre the conseruation of so many persons befoze their destruction, because of the great benefit that would ensue thereof, namely the preservation of one portion of his realme, as lately did the **L.** Constable at Burdeaux, and the Ro-

mane Senate many times with the
 peoples mutinies : whereas contrarie
 wise the violences of Silla and Marius
 who put their fellow citizens even by
 thousands to the sword, were detestable
 and almost vntworthie to be spoken off.
 When the mischief is so great as it
 can not be cured without euident dan-
 ger, it is better to tollerate it in the
 weake parte, than to lose all; as it hap-
 peneth to those, of whom when the
 pallsie hath taken hold of halfe the bo-
 die, no wise phisition will counsell to
 diuide it from the other halfe that is
 yet in health. Now if this considerati-
 on may take place in all diseases sim-
 ply, much more then in such as are of
 long continuance, and lightly more vn-
 curable then the later : even so then
 when one parte of a state is by what-
 soeuer meanes deuided from the other,
 wee must bee verie warie of making
 them to meete, especially when such
 means bringeth now vtter confusion to
 the whole bodie, and that the infected
 partes be noble and essentiall : for in a
 mischief, in a maner vniuersall, tolle-
 ration in it selfe is farre more necessary
 then

then the triall of the latter rooting of it
 out when it passeth our strength, & that
 there is so great equalitie that the com-
 bat ought still to be in doubt. And such
 are those which we terme necessarie e-
 uils, which beeing preserved, doe also
 preserve the subiect whereto they are
 adioyned, and ought as a man should
 say, to be more curiously entreated then
 health it selfe. Howbeit this similitude
 may in one respect be maimed: for such
 an inconuenience may grow in a state,
 that it will be most necessarie to oppose
 the whole for the whole, and not before
 trial of the gentle & most louing means.
 And in a monarchie wee must aduen-
 ture euē the crown and scepter against
 him that aduentureth wrongfully to
 take it away. And why? because that
 euerie defensive warre is most lawfull,
 and especially when your whole state
 is called into question. Yea, which is
 more, you are by nature bound therto,
 and in case you bee retchlesse therein,
 you do inwardly betraie your country.
 The like is it in all matters wherevpon
 dependeth your authoritie, together
 with the preservation of your rightes,
 which

which ought to be inviolable. It is ther-
 fore the duetie of everie souldier ma-
 gistrate diligently to watch, and upon
 necessitie stoutly to employ himselfe.
 But so long as the state is not touched,
 there can be no cause sufficient to set the
 Monarke against his subjects, so farre
 must hee be from shewing himselfe
 with the baile of religion to oppresse
 his realme, notwithstanding whatsoe-
 ver the diversities thereof, especially if
 the number of the contrarie parties bee
 innumerable, also that tolleration may
 be a manifest occasion of rest. Where-
 fore albeit these pretended reformed,
 were the most damnable heretikes in
 the worlde, yet considering the multi-
 tude of them, the good Townes, and al-
 most all the good prouinces which they
 enjoy, with the mightie & valiant Cap-
 taines that support them, it were but
 in vaine for vs to enterprize to assaile
 them, from whom we can bring nothing
 but the tokens of their stomackes, not-
 withstanding whatsoever forrain suc-
 cour we haue had to support vs, & that
 they haue hitherto resisted vs with the
 faction onely that they haue in France.

So far shall we be from doing them a
 nie harme at all, if they get their sozren
 helpe. Besides this, we cannot well cast
 them off from amongst vs without ex-
 treme inhumanitie: for, for the most
 part they be conioyned vnto vs by con-
 sanguinitie, and all generally by like
 participation of one selfe countrie. Far
 are we from consozming our selues to
 the Israelites, who by a certaine iust
 permission of God suffered the Jebu-
 sites to dwell in Ierusalem: albeit the
 propoztion betwene vs and the reso-
 med, were without comparison grea-
 ter then betwene them: either to the
 great Emperoꝝ Theodosius, who as
 witnesse Epiphanius and Tertullian,
 Doctoꝝ of the Church and men woꝝ
 thie credite, during his Empire tollera-
 ted an hundred sectes, but especially the
 Arrians, whom thzee oꝝ foure Empe-
 roꝝ befoze him had fauoured, who wer
 founded both by pꝛescription of time,
 and by eight Councils which had con-
 firmed their heresie after the same of
 Nice, and namely the Councell of Ari-
 mini, where sixtie Bishops maintei-
 ned Arrianisme, & onelie thzee persons
 stucke

stucke to the trueth: and yet Theodo-
 sius himselfe persenered constantly in
 true religion, wher in he caused his chil-
 dzen to bee instructed, and so did more
 weaken Arrianisme then hee could
 haue done by anye violence of decrees,
 which he surceased. I will not bring in
 for example the Turke, who tollera-
 teth all kindes of religion, for that I
 minde to keepe the Christians within
 Christendome, but surely he doeth the
 more stedfastly establish his estate, for
 that men being glad of libertie, care not
 for troubling his estate that graunteth
 them peace. Behold Germany & Pole-
 land: you shal see no nation so diuers in
 religion as they, and yet can they ioyne
 in a common peace, neither doe the di-
 uision of opinions diuide their estates.
 As for the Catholike king, he at the first
 established his Inquisition so surelie
 that these reformed haue had no great
 opportunitie to settle themselves in
 Spaine, but for the low Countries hee
 cannot yet compasse it there, which re-
 boundeth to the great detriment & con-
 fusion of his affaires, how good a face
 soever hee set vpon the matter.

But

But God hath giuen him that bone
 to giue vpon, least he should imploy
 his great wealth to the destruction of
 any his mightie neighbor, which with
 the incredible treasure that this Fle-
 mish warre hath wasted, hemight per-
 aduenture haue done: yet doe I not
 thinke but euerie of you doe abhorre
 the infinite mischiefes which his obsti-
 nacie hath bred: for through the natu-
 rall loue that is rooted in vs, we iudge
 those freely of others then of our selues:
 and in deede wee haue taken pittie of
 them: witnesse the French troupes at
 sundrie times led thither, and even late-
 ly the same which the late Monsieur
 brought, albeit the whole haue had but
 bad successe, either for our honours or
 the profite of those poore tyrannized peo-
 ple. Notwithstand, we haue alwaies in ap-
 parance shewed what grieve wee haue
 conceived of their desolation: and ther-
 fore notwithstanding whatsoever con-
 trouersie of religion the Catholike
 French could runne to their succour,
 albeit we haue conuerted our furie a-
 gainst the same faction among vs: so
 diuers haue wee bene to helpe some,
 and

and to oppresse other some, even those
to whom we were more bound to shew
favour and curtesie. Neuerthelesse I
will not say, that the Catholikes
tended chiefly to aide the reformed in
Flanders, simply in respect of their re-
ligion: but I pretend thereby onely to
shew that they haue all great reason to
maintain their felow countrimen, who
shroud them selues vnder the same
cloake of reformation, as to succour
strangers. Concerning these men, they
propound to them selues charitie to-
wardes their neighbors, and hatred of
the Spaniard with the desire of his de-
struction: neither haue wee feared to
make the Catholikes protectors of the
Reformed against the Catholikes,
and yet do we make a conscience to vse
the like curtesie to ours against our
selues, which wee might with much
more ease, profit and commoditie, doe:
considering that thereof doe depend the
preseruacion & eminencie of the estate:
Thus much haue I thought good
now to say vnto you concerning this
matter, beseeching you, my maisters, to
examine my reasons, & thereto to adde
such

suche as your discretions are able to
 perfozme, whereby wee all may pro-
 cure the restoring of our affaires. In
 the name of God doe I exhört you to
 enter into so deepe consideration of our
 miseries, and the difficultie or rather
 impossibilitie of our purposes, that we
 may shortly after manie stormes taste
 of some tranquillitie, bearing faithfull
 counsels to the king in this matter, ac-
 cording as by the duetie of your func-
 tions you are bound. The kingdome
 of Christ is destinate to troubles: true:
 but woe vnto those that are the causers
 thereof. This sacred shepheards
 sheepe ought not to become wolues: or
 they to whom Christ hath comman-
 ded peace, to make warres: or Gods
 childezen to murder their brethren.

But I speake only to you my mai-
 sters, whom I acknowledge to bee the
 principall court which at this day doe
 minister whatsoeuer motion you list to
 our affaires: consider that it is your
 parts to become mediatozs in all these
 funerall diuisions: to reunite, if not in
 religion, yet at the least in peace al these
 partakers, which are so fleshed one a-
 gainst

gainst an other. Whitherto haue you been
content to cast your torches betwene
our armies, and suddenly after the ma-
ner of the auncient Priests of Rome,
to retire into place of safetie. Now is it
time for you to run and quench them:
other wise you shall daily lose your
great supporters, and in the ende grow
so weake, that they whom you thinke
weakest shall ouerrule you: your force
dependeth onely vpon peace, whereas
in the warres, besides that these refoz-
med doe catch from the Clergie infinite
treasures, enē those that are left do va-
nish with the aire, & seem only to fatten
vp such as vnder colour of fauouring of
you, doe but seeke to get their linings.
Many of our Popes haue agreed our
kings with the Emperors and English
men, when we had but forren warres:
greater reason then haue you in these
ciuill and domesticall dissentions, the
most intollerable or odious in y^e world,
to seeke some way so to do. Whosoener
shall say to his brother, Racha, is by
God himselfe accursed, what then shall
you bee, if not onelie in wordes, but in
deede also you build the dissipation of
your

your neighbours? And what clemency can you looke for of God that are so cruell to men: so cruell I say euen to your selues: I will speake boldly vnto you my maisters. I feare if you long continue this savage life, it will happen to you as it did to Esau, that for want of being in Gods house, you will lose your birthright. For so long as you pursue these reformed, you are as it were in the wilderness, where you runne thirsting after their blood, and the whites haue no care to serue your heauenly father. So as vnlesse I bee deceiued, at your returne the gate of his mercy wil bee shutte against you: you shall bee knowne, but not acknowledged to bee his children: and finally these cruelties will inherite crueltie, these opppressions oppression, and these iniquities vengeance. Beware my maisters, for albe it you deceiue men, God seeth your hearts, and to him all secrets are open: suffer not religion to be the bellweather vnto the subverters of this state, and as the shortest follies are the best, so content your selues that you haue brought things into that dispaire wherein wee

D

now

now see them, and so long as there is a-
 ny likelihood of recoverie, delate not
 your abilitie anie longer, least it fleete
 away in the violence of our mishaps.
 As for the league whereto you haue
 lent the vizard of religion, consider that
 you cherish y^e serpent that killeth you:
 you haue swallowed henbane which
 maketh you to die without feeling. Re-
 member you not that when it was first
 reuealed, you were not named? as in-
 deed what religion could they think on
 that purposed onelie impietie? Could
 they that shot onelie at your kings per-
 son your head & protecto^r, and his state
 to order it after their fantasies, call you
 to warrant their religion? you y^e should
 preach nothing but obedience to the
 magistrate? Hereunto doe the blind see
 as clerely as the deafe. These shamelesse
 persons thought vpon nothing lesse then
 religion: The death of the Lords an-
 noynted, the spoile of his crown did they
 leuell at: witnes their practises against
 the best and most Catholike Townes
 in France, for they neuer medled with
 the reformed o^r attempted against anie
 thing to them apperteining. And I
 maruaile

maruaile how besing so fierce against
these partakers of common quiet, as ye
were at the beginning you can now be
so drunk with their hipocrisie as ye
are, albeit you serue the but for a baile:
and to say truth, you haue but the foles
part in the tragedie that they plaie vpon
the Theater of France. What protection
needed you when no man seemed
to molest you? who gaue them this of-
fice ouer your soueraigne? needed he to
be constrained to your defence, which
hee euer so willingly tooke vpon him?
could not you be defended but by war?
had you not for certaine yeeres tried the
defence of peace? was it not possible to
line in so faire a path without murthe-
ring all the world? All France before
the last troubles did wee see in so good
peace that the controuersies in religion
did nothing impeach the concoꝝd of one
or other: traffick was growne common
again, the waies were free through all
parts of the realme, what losse had you
by it? wherein were you troubled? who
molested you, either in your goods or
persons? Enioyed you not your church
rents euen among these reformed? did

you not eate and drinke together without
 outrage: who euer complained of
 this contentation: As for these refoz-
 med, which of them during this time
 refused the obedience that the subiect
 oweth to his Prince: who haue defrau-
 ded him of his roiall prerogatiues: what
 taxes or ordinarie Subsidies haue they
 reiected: who amongst them followed
 not the ordinarie course of iustice: who
 conspired against the state: your selues
 my maisters will confesse there was no
 fault in them. If by obseruing their re-
 ligion they did amisse, it was by the con-
 sent of the king and all the soueraigne
 Courtes of this realme: by the consent,
 I saie, so solemnely swozne: the infrin-
 ging whereof seemeth to mende their
 cause: not that I will late the blame
 vpon the king: but onelie vpon those
 whose violence haue brought him to
 this extremitie, to false his word for
 the breaking of their pernicious oaths,
 and to turne to these rebels, so to turne
 the swozne that they had moued against
 him into the innocencie of these peace-
 able persons. Thus doe such as are in
 danger of shipwacke, abandon their
 owne

owne goods to relieue their vessell, albe-
 it this forced will be a will, sith the first
 motions rest in him that executeth it.
 But I will enter no farther into the
 considerations which the king may
 haue had to gainsay himselfe, and yet
 will I boldly say, that hee neuer did
 thing so prejudiciall to his state, wher-
 of he hath most euident p^{ro}ues, and I
 beseech God to bee content with that is
 past, and to withhold his hand from
 of his people, and grant vs some release
 from these oppressions. As also your
 selues doe in deede know, notwithstanding
 the pursuit of the Pensioners of
 the leagued remaining about his per-
 son, what adu^{an}ce there was to make his
 maiestie resolue himselfe thereto. This
 his cleere iudgement perceined the per-
 nicious consequence of association, but
 hee wanted supporters to vphold him-
 selfe, considering that the chiefe Offi-
 cers of his counsell, who befoze had
 bound their faith to these Princes, ne-
 uer desisted from bending of him that
 way, neither haue I alwaies bene of
 that minde, but did long persuaade my
 self that the stedfastnesse of our affaires

consisted in this inconstancie, howbeit
 I was forced to bee as it were sheltle
 witted, and by disiozement from vani-
 tie to marry with reason. For sith the
 king knew well inough that there was
 no quarell but at his estate, hee should
 haue made no difficultie to call about
 him such as haue most interest therein,
 as the Princes of the blood and their
 power, at the least vpon extremitie, ac-
 cording to their own offers. What was
 the way to haue suppressed the insolent
 proceedings of these partakers, who sith
 only in puddle water, and vse our con-
 fusions to their own establishment. For
 the people would easily haue beliened
 that in truth there was no quarrell but
 at the state, if the king had vnderprop-
 ped himself with the pillers of the state
 and not beene beaten downe with the
 winde of religion, albeit some of his prin-
 ces of his blood do professe no other then
 himselfe: also that they which professe
 anie other, are so affectionate to his ser-
 uice and the seruice of his crowne, that
 they would not haue beene anie whit
 more slacke in effect then in will. Had
 there not been more apparance that hee
 should

Should haue ioined with these, the with
 the leaguers: that is, with his friends
 then with his enemies: with the French
 then with the Lorrains: with his own
 blood then with these bastards: with
 the true Officers of his Crowne, then
 with those that haue been so vndutifull
 to him: The Romans alwayes appea-
 sed their domesticall quarrels, to agree
 against those that assailed them, whe-
 ther the Gaules, the Thuscans, or the
 Carthaginians. The like did the Spa-
 niards, when the late king Frances the
 first, during their revolt from the Em-
 perour Charles the fift gat from them
 the realme of Nauarre. The discent of
 the English at Newhauen, 1562. byed
 the reunion of the Frenchmen, so to re-
 turne them away: and when wee haue
 scene these monsters of Lorraine waste
 our country, must we needs ioyne with
 them to help to destroy our selues: what
 is become of that auncient French ver-
 tue that was wont to goe to fight with
 the enemy at his owne doore, where
 now we call him in, wee nourish him,
 we flatter him, and the more harme hee
 dooth vs, the more we binde our selues

to him? This nation which heretofore
 hath triumphed ouer the Emperours,
 the Solimans, the Saracins, the Gothes,
 and the Normans, hath not now bene
 able to withstand a handfull of Gui-
 zards, and this scepter exalted ouer a
 million of trophies, stoopeth to these re-
 bels, yea they haue almost trod it vnder
 foote. All the honoz of valiancy and cou-
 rage which our pzedecessors haue in
 twelue hundred yeares atchieued and
 kept, haue wee wretchedly lost in one
 houre, and these Lions that feared no
 bulles, are now terrefied only with the
 crowing of a Cocke? Our estate doe I
 now compare to the Rocke mentioned
 by Pliny, which if ye thrust with your
 whole bodie neuer shaketh, but when
 you touch it onely with one finger, or
 rather to that stone which being whole
 flecteth vpon the water, but broken sin-
 keth. The whole world, as a man shuld
 say, was not able to make France to
 shake, and now these Dutch:omes doe
 quite ouerthrow it. We altogether haue
 flected vpon the floodes of infinit fozein
 warres, yet our diuisions doe browne
 vs. This miserable realme seemeth to
 be

be growne to her last periode; and as
 that annient Astrologer by the noyse
 wenles that did gnaw the posts, ind-
 ged of the destructiō of the house where-
 in he was, so may wee boldly say, that
 sth these vermine still consumeth vs,
 our fall is at hand. What then? must
 the French men become strangers one
 to an other? can we finde any soules so
 dissotall as to abandon the true stock of
 S. Lewes, to embrace these wrongfull
 usurpers of their right? Those y haue
 been our true and lawfull Lordes these
 thre hundred and sixtie yeares, (for so
 long is it since the raigne of S. Lewes
 head of that race, who also gathereth
 his discent from Merouce) to those
 whom we haue not knowne these fiftie
 yeares: shall we carry vpon our Tar-
 gets & shouldrs, those whose vnwo-
 thinelle and vniustice should make to
 cleane to the earth: shall wee plucke a-
 way these brane branches of the flow,
 ordeluce which yet remaine, to graft in
 their places these wildings, who as they
 haue begun, will yeld forth nothing
 but thornes? Oh, who can wish this
 horrible change: This onelie reason

might mooue vs to detest the ambition
 of these buisie bodie: they aspire to the
 Crowne, but they cannot haue it with-
 out murder, and the death of a million
 of men: those that byhold it, are like to
 be the first that must stope: and they
 that imagine by their meanes to get
 preferment, shall haue peradventure
 no other recompence then the losse of
 their liues. To be brieue, for the fulfil-
 ling of their ambition, we must heape
 vp our tombes wth carcases: the heapes
 of their oppressed partakers are y^e states
 whereby they climbe vp to heauen.
 Ought wee not to abhorre these cruel-
 ties: to spit in the faces of these shame-
 lesse persons that bereaue vs of our li-
 bertie? To hono^r those that may peace-
 ably and without disorder ascend vnto
 the type of that authoritie which the
 lawes of the realme & their desert haue
 purchased for them? Let vs hardlie
 touch the chiefe string of this game, and
 sith these men are not ashamed to doe,
 let not vs be ashamed to speake. The
 Guizardes would, to the preiudice of
 y^e house of Burbon, inuade this realme,
 euerie man knoweth it, neither is there
 any

any thing so common in the peoples
 mouthes: wherefoze, because the king
 of Nauarre, who is the nextest and the
 Prince of Conde, doe professe the re-
 formed religion, and so consequently are
 are heretikes. I am sozry that I am no
 great Doctoꝝ, that I might finde out
 this point of heresie which so oft is cast
 in their teeth: but in my mind the chief
 disputations of these reformed, doe tend
 only to make the simple word of God
 of moze foꝛce then mens traditions.
 What is it whereto they call vs, and I
 believe they haue great reason, neither
 that wee are so sufficiently shrowded
 vnder the cloake of the Church, as to
 thinke that the beautifull title can in
 effect stop all errors: neither is there a-
 ny thing so easie to corrupt as the my-
 steries of religion, whereof I reposit
 my selfe to Noa hes family, which was
 so holily instructed, and yet whence
 grew all the Idolatrie of y Chaldeans,
 and consequently of all the rest of the
 woꝛlde, except those whom God re-
 serued foꝛ his people: yea I referre
 my selfe to the same people: was there
 euer thing so fraile as those wret-
 ches

ches: whence then came the foure
hundredeth false Prophets against one
onely Micheas: the worshipping in
the high places, and the abominable
superstitions wherein these libertines
did overflow: neither was it euer o-
therwise, but that the trueth vpon the
beginning of the light thereof, hath had
the darknesse of lying opposite thereto:
yea, if I durst be so bolde, as to passe
common speech, it is the trueth that of
necessitie bringeth forth lyes, euen as
light bringeth forth a shadow. For this
cause, so soone as Iesus Christ reuealed
him selfe to be the sonne of God, al men
accounted him a blasphemers, and the
whole course of his life seemed to those
blinde people but a merrie enterlude: so
soone as the Apostles had preached the
pure doctrine, the diuel sowed his im-
purities: yea no man drine them moze
out of the Church, then they that na-
med them selues the Church. Simon
the magitian opposed himselfe against S.
Peter: Cerinthus against S. Iohn, and
so consequently sundrie heretikes a-
gainst the Church, as Ebion, Basili-
des, Marcion, Montanus, Carparates
Sabelli-

Sabellicus and many other, who all
 for the most part endeavored to over-
 throw the ground of our salvation, Je-
 sus Christ: neither hath the Church
 wanted exercise onely against her ene-
 mies, but also she hath, as I find, beene
 often molested by her owne household
 servants: Novatian the Priest, deny-
 ed to receyue, such as had revolted, to
 penance: and so with the helpe of Nico-
 stratus a Priest of Carthage, caused a
 great schisme in the Church. Samosa-
 tenus, being Bishop of Antioch, re-
 newed the errors of the Ebionites. Ar-
 rius a Priest of Alexandria, had the
 assistance of many Bishops and Em-
 perors, yea, and since of whole nati-
 ons in his heresie. Now if in these be-
 ginnings, the treasons of such as seer-
 med to serue God were so great, there
 is no doubt but this mischief hath still
 slipped in and beene maintained in the
 Church. Yea if you can well thinke
 upon it, it may bee you will not iudge
 your selues cleane exempt from all cor-
 ruptions: but I will say no more for
 feare of incurring your censures. How-
 beit I am sure you neuer proue the de-
 cision.

cision of the processe which the refoz-
 med haue entred against you, and haue
 long hung vpon the file, also y^e we must
 belieue some rather then other some
 wout any further notice of the matter:
 for so should we be no longer troubled
 to know whether these two p^rinces be
 heretikes o^r not. Nowbeit admit they
 be (which hardly and without p^reiud-
 dice to their replication I can belieue)
 is it your partes to shrink from their
 obedience? So did neuer any Christi-
 ans in the Primitiue Church against
 the heathen Emperors, to whom in
 all publike gouernment they submit-
 ted them selues, albeit there could bee
 no greater difference in religion than
 was betweene them. Did they reuolt
 against Constantin the great, who in
 the end fauoured Arrius: against Lici-
 nius: against Iulian the Apostata: a-
 gainst Valentinian and many others
 that exercised tyzanny against their re-
 ligion? But the king of Nauarre is
 farre from dealing so with vs: for he is
 not yet come to that which wee feare.
 Thus we cry without a cause before
 we be beaten: not that foresight is not
 an

an effect of wisdom, but because it
 is in vaine to prevent that which wee
 neither can nor ought to eschewe.
 Whosoever God giueth vs our kings
 we must suffer it: neither is there anie
 law or lawfull example in the world,
 that teacheth vs to doe otherwise. Here
 in the reformed may seme to beare
 themselves but badly, in that they take
 armes against their soueraigne, in de-
 fence of their religion. But besides that
 they are iustly grounded vpon the de-
 fensiuē vnder the magistrats authority;
 also that nothing is moze naturall then
 to expulse violence, they doe besides al-
 ledge the peremptorie reasons which
 often enough they haue giuen vs to vnder-
 stand of, neither is their any fault
 but in our negligence that wee are not
 sufficiently instructed thereof. Moreover,
 the king of Nauarres and the D.
 of Condes maner of dealing with our
 Catholikes, might make you to hope
 of all good entreatie, whensoever things
 may come to that passe. Truly the
 king of Nauarre hath alwaies tollera-
 ted Catholike religion in his Realme,
 which is the latter Nauarre, that is to
 say

say, a portion of all Nauarre, the rest
 thereof lying beyond the Pirinean
 mountaines, the Spaniards vnjustly
 detaine from him. And this can my
 selfe testifie, as hauing seene it with my
 owne eyes: for vpon a certaine curio-
 sitie I traualled thither two yeares
 since, euen to know whether that which
 I had heard to the contrarie, were true
 or no. True it is, that matters are o-
 therwise ordered in his soueraignetie of
 Bearne: which is, because at his com-
 ming thereto, he so found them: yea &
 so well established for the space of cer-
 taine yeares during the life of his late
 mother the Queene of Nauarre, that it
 were very hard, yea vnpossible to make
 any alteration, which also is dange-
 rous vnlesse any greater benefit be be-
 rie apparant. Secondly, his house is
 full of Catholike gentlemen which
 serue him, euen in his most priuate and
 notable offices, neither did hee ever
 make anie difficultie with great cour-
 tesie to receyue all those that offered
 them selues. This is no token that he
 will otherwise deale whensoever hee
 shall obtaine our estate, neither will I
 vse

Use any more then one reason gathered
 of the likelihood, yea, velle 3 be decora-
 ned, of the verie truth. It is not likely
 that this prince seeing himselfe exal-
 ted vnto the throne, would after so ma-
 ny troubles, seeke other then peate, to
 sake would he be from taking occasion
 of warre with his subiects, whose af-
 fections he had rather captiuate, then
 estrange. Whereupon he will alwaies
 like that his subiects should maintaine
 their accustomed religion, p^ruised,
 that the intolencie of these harebrained
 who seeke but to trouble the water, and
 then to blame the lambes, leaſt they
 should faile of some pretence to deuoure
 them, doe permit him the like. He may
 alwaies consider that the Catholikes
 parte is well underp^ropped: that if his
 were inuincible, so is the other, and
 therefore that hee shall haue a better
 hand by maintaining of it, then by
 drawing vpon his estate the curse of
 the people, and vpon his conscience the
 destruction thereof: as also 3 will adde
 the other of his house being Catho-
 likes, having so good part therein, hee
 will be the more careful for their sakes.
 But what? we doe, according to the
 p^rouerbe, Write for the Bishops cope,

and to no purpose doe denide the inheritance of the living, who peradventure may outline all those that dispute of thinges to come after his death: yea it seemeth, we share out the webbe of his life at our pleasures: but albeit it bee not lawfull to mone this question, yet may we resolve it, to the end to take away all doubts from those that breed preiudice to peace and the common wealth. And in deede, it is as much as to complaine of ease. Tell you see that the king of Navars troupes doe at this day consist as well of the one as of the other sorte, likewise that concord remaineth amongst them, whereas the best of their profession that cometh amongst vs must bee imprisoned & ransomed from all his goodes, yea and finally suffer that death which bee hath not deserved. These be monsters, they must be choaked by: and many times for the satisfying of the rage of the enemies to the state, we are forced to injurie our owne selves. I know that the most malicious among them doe vse to gird at this the king of Navarres facilitie, as if the same were the baites wherewith he seeketh to draw vs into his nettes: but no man can doe so well
as

as to please all men: still there is some
 thing to be misliked, and mens fancies
 must be tormented for their pleasures.
 What would it haue bene, if in the be-
 ginnig abandoning his olde religion
 for our pleasures, he had taken ours?
 When would they haue said it had been
 to carry fadoz with vs: that he so coun-
 terfeited to the end to deceiue vs: that
 outwardly hee had bene a Catholike,
 and inwardly reformed in his consci-
 ence: that he had not cast his olde skin:
 that yet he smelt of the faggot: that we
 must waite for his perseuerance, so to
 know whether he were to bee trusted:
 In summe, the poore Prince had bene
 wise in his account. And in truth,
 that had bene the onely way, to haue
 unhorsed him outright: for the refo-
 med would not haue trusted him, but
 would haue played their partes alone:
 and the Catholikes would not at the
 first blow haue committed them selues
 to him, no peraduenture not at all. Pea
 if the Captaines of the league were be-
 fore their ghostly father, they would
 say they should haue bene verie sozie if
 they thought that the Catholikes
 would take his part: and I am sure
 they would some labour to be of the o-

ther side as heretofore they haue done:
 so to lay a foundation for their ambiti-
 on. But surely thereby the king of Na-
 uarre could haue reaped neither hono-
 nor profit: and therefore I doe not
 thinke it had bene any good counsaile
 for him so to haue done, least he might
 by that means haue lost those of whom
 he is already assured: neither can it be
 any let to any that affect onely the pre-
 seruation of the state to ioine with him,
 as of late did the Earle of Soissons. Al-
 so in as much as which way so euer he
 turne him, the present state of his af-
 faires will still furnish him of enemies,
 it wil better besee me him to cleaue con-
 stantly to that wherein from his infan-
 cy he hath bene brought vp, then light-
 ly to intrude him selfe into pernicious
 and vncertaine nouelties. Moreover,
 the lesser is neuer to prescribe lawe to
 the superiour, and except the kings per-
 son (whom I specke not of) it is grea-
 ter reason that all Frenchmen ende-
 uour to conforme themselves to the R.
 of Nauarre, then he to stoupe to their
 discretion, and bend to their violences:
 as also his dignitie and courage can
 not digest such reproches as they pro-
 cure him, or rigour as they vse toward
 him

him. This hath he alwaies shewed,
but now more then euer. You see how
God hath lately blessed him: in deliue-
ring vs into his hands, so as if his for-
raine helpe should once ioine with him,
his discretion, valour, and dexteritie
would set our spurs close inough to
our heeles. It is therefore most neces-
sarie for you to dispose your selues to
preuent the mischief which God hath
prepared for vs in the rencounter of
these armies, the hazard whereof can
not but rebound greatly to the kinges
loss: for if he get the victorie, it wil be
with horrible slaughter of his subjects:
and if he lose it, his state is gone, nei-
ther shall wee peraduenture hereafter
finde such fauor at the Conquerors
hands as we would desire. Take heed
it fall not out with vs, as it did with the
Tyrians, who refusing the honest com-
position that Alexander offered, were
afterward taken by assault and cruelly
extreated: rather leade the way to these
reformed in this godly work of compas-
sion by offering vnto them such vnion
and concord as heretofore haue beene
among you: as els follow their steps,
who from the beginning haue cryed
for, and desired nothing but the way to
be

be ioyned againe unto you. namely a
 Councell lawfully called, wherein all
 points of religion may be decided of the
 scriptures, and not by opinions: by rea-
 son, not by rage: by the quietnesse of a-
 mitie, not by the bitterness of malice:
 neither alledge that, as is aforesaid,
 that is done already: for the Councell
 of Nice, the first general after the Apo-
 stles time within the space of three hun-
 dredth yeares, was no prejudice to the
 calling of diuers other according to the
 exigents of the affaires, as the same of
 Constantinople, against Macedonius
 bishop of the same citie, who denied the
 diuinitie of the holy Ghost: of Ephesus
 against Pelagius & Nestorius bishop of
 Constantinople, who denied the diu-
 nitie of Jesus Christ: of Chalcedon a-
 gainst Eutiches also a priest of Con-
 stantinople, who confounded the two
 natures of Jesus Christ: the second of
 Constantinople against Anthemius
 bishop of the same place, who denyed
 that the virgin Mary had brought forth
 Jesus Christ Man & God: to be briefe,
 many other generall Councels, often
 called. Besides all which, our kinges
 haue also bene careful to call some par-
 ticularly for Fraunce. Under Pelagi-
 us

as the first; there were two holden at
 Paris: seven or eight at Orleance: two
 at Tours under Paule the first, and an
 other by the authority of Pepin against
 the Greekes, concerning the trinitie:
 under Adrian the first, and by the au-
 thoritie of Charlemaigne seven at
 Magence, Reimes, Tours, Chalais,
 and Arles for the reformation of the
 state of the Church: under Gregory the
 fourth, by the authority of Lewis the
 sixth, one at Aix the Chapel, wherein the
 superstition of the Clergie was restrai-
 ned, whereupon they grew to mutiny,
 & procured the cursed revolt of Lewis
 his children. Others haue there bene
 holden for the reformation of the Clar-
 gie under Leo the ninth at Rheims:
 but since as the Popes authority in-
 creased, the Kings diminished, and so
 consequently, disorders were more tol-
 lerated in the Church: and vnlesse I be
 deceived, of the corruption of manners,
 which every one confesseth, and all hi-
 stories doe testifie, some part may haue
 crept euen into the doctrine, either
 throug ambition or conetousnes of the
 Doctors: howbeit I also said that Vr-
 bane the second came personally into
 Fraunce to hold the Council at Cler-

mont in Auvergne: Pascall the holie
 that of Troy: Innocent the fourth
 hold that of Lyons: Gregory the tenth
 to hold another in the same to come: as
 for Clement the fifth, he held his seat at
 Auignon, and celebrated the Aniver-
 sall Council at Vienna in Dauphin.
 Afterwarde Sigismund the Emperour
 procured the holding of the Council of
 Constance under Iohn the xx. who
 was there deposed. That of Basill un-
 der Eugenius the fourth, who also was
 there deposed. That of Florence under
 Amedee or Felix the fifth. After all
 these there was one holden at Orle-
 ance by the French Church against
 Pius the second, who would have abo-
 lished the Pragmaticall sanction, as an
 heresie which was but the dependance
 of the Councell of Basill: an other at
 Tours against Pope Iulij the second:
 an other at Lions by king Lewis the
 twelfth, & the last at Trent afore men-
 tioned. You see then my D. whether
 the first Councils were ever any law
 to the second, the second to the third, &
 so forth as need hath required. It is as
 the Church as with our bodies: if the
 bodie be sicke, we must call the phisici-
 on; if the Church be diseased, we must
 have

hane recourse to the Counsell, & therein
to consult vpon most conuenient remedies:

But as it is not enough to haue once
heard the Bishops opinion, but that
according as the sicknesse encreaseth,
we must also haue still recourse there-
to: euen so must we vpon euerie occasi-
on gather againe together these some-
raigne Bishops of whom the Coun-
cell must consist, heare them without
passion, commaund the diseased to si-
lence, take reason in payment, and per-
severe to the ende in their firme resolu-
tions. If the Church fall againe, we
must againe call for these helpes to raise
it vp, and so continually without inter-
mission vnto the end of the world, whe
the head of the Church shall holde his
last Council. Not that I would at e-
uerie word so trouble the Bishops, or
so; the least ache that may happen to
our fingers end: but when the mischief
is vniuersall, we must seeke the like re-
medie. The Greke and Latine Church
met fouretene or fiftene times to con-
clude vpon an agreement: and albeit
there rested some difficultie as yet there
is, they neuerthelesse neuer denounced
warre each to other. There are none
but these reformed who haue swallowed

ed by all iniurie, in being deturied this
 Soueraigne salus of reuion by a Coun-
 cell: I saie by one onely Councell,
 so farre are wee from granting them
 many vpon necessitie. What can you
 terme this refusall but Romake and in-
 iury. I would neuer haue thought they
 had had so much reason on their side.
 Wee haue wished to arme the King of
 Nauarre, yea euen by force to compell
 him, rather then to straine our selues
 to condescend to so lust a demand. Teach
 me hath he said to you if I be ignorant,
 and ye haue beaten him: he hath bar-
 kened to you and ye haue stopped your
 mouthes: he hath asked you the way
 to heauen and ye haue stopped your
 eares. Your voice hath been like to the
 voice of the Edomites, at the taking of
 Hierusalem, and all men haue heard
 you cry: on, sacke, blood and fire. Out of
 your scholes as out of y^e Troyan hoyle
 haue sodenly stepped forth these armies
 wherewith ye haue threatened this
 prince, yea they haue been almost vpon
 his armie before he hath been readie
 to beate them of. This is a matter in
 fresh remembrance, and euery man can
 beare me witnesse of the truth: the more
 I consider it, the better ground doe I
 find for their taking of armes, yea there

was neuer thing more iust then their
 proceedings. He defendeth himselfe, but
 being assailed. He pursueth vs, but after
 he had reculed: hee taketh reuenge, but
 being iniured. He calleth the stranger,
 but when his haue driven him away,
 Who then can mislike his resolution
 after so long patience? Will hee shoote at
 him, who can then blame him for loo-
 king to himselfe? Will hee undermine his
 honours and dignities, why then shall
 not hee rampier them vp againe? Oh,
 how deare will these brawles bee to
 France? all the forces of the world doe
 seeme on euerie side to fall vpon vs for
 our confusion and dissipation. And al-
 beit I can comprehend the domesticall,
 yet doe I more feare the forein, name-
 ly the Spanish, who by little and little
 groweth licentious of the delicacies of our
 country. Long haue they envied vs,
 neither wil they obserue the league vn-
 till their enuy be contented. For these
 enemies of the peace of France, where
 they can by nothing but by cruelties &
 violence, will make a good penitworth
 of so much as shall be at their discreti-
 ons to cast it into the throates of these
 Marans, in hope still to retaine the su-
 perioritie. But that nation is subtile e-
 nough

nough to be this meane to their owne
 advantage, and as within these few
 yeeres while they haue had a faire wind
 they haue not accustomed themselves
 to serue, so wil it be hard for the French
 men to escape their dominion vntill
 they looke the sooner to it. And this is it
 that king Philip barketh at: this it is
 that he wanteth to accomplish his most
 large conquests: this is the floure that
 hee wanteth in his nosegate: hee hath
 long since cast an eye at it, and now is
 the time that he will stretch forth his
 hand to take it. And indeed France is
 now but an Hutes nest of Espaniolized
 persons, that is to say, of Traitors and
 peritours to France: their cofer doe
 swell with Spanish Duccats, and these
 wretches are not ashamed for ready
 money to sell the libertie which our Fa-
 thers so painfully purchased, yea vntill
 God breake off the purposes of these
 corrupt persons, we shal in the end find
 our selves the Turkes Genitaries
 and this Pirats Slaves. If it were as ea-
 sie to shake off the yoke as to take it, I
 could wish these goodly perturbors a
 while to try the tiranny of these Bu-
 fires, and so I hope we should see
 them runne back to their franchise.

it lieth vs vpon to keepe them from that,
 yea from making euen the least motion
 that may be: for these Foxes wil easily
 set fast wheresoener they can but reach
 their nailes, & all the bodie where they
 set their fete. And sith part of vs do al-
 ready stampe vnder the burthen, I hope
 that God will so strengthen the king of
 Navar, and all the princes of the blood,
 & these Scarnelings shall lose but their
 longing. Also if the princes do but con-
 tinue their braue exploits, I wold wish
 these pernicious Counsaillors of y^e state
 to put vp their pipes & sounde their re-
 trait betimes, lest the might of our com-
 mon mishaps ouertake them. And as
 for you my maisters I doe once againe
 beseech you to take pitie of this misera-
 ble realme. Consider of what impo-
 tance it is to keepe a stranger armed a-
 bout you: giue eare to the wofull cries
 of so many widowes, Orphanes, and
 friendles, laide desolate by the warres.
 Measure not others mishappes by your
 ease, neither vnder the pretence that the
 blowes touch you not, thinke that those
 of your neighbores should not moue you
 to compassion. If euer you loued this
 realme in her greatestt eminency, alas
 cherish those small beames that yet re-
 maine:

maine: Heare by the old walles of this
 bulloing with all your power: suffer
 not these Erostrates to waite noble in
 our ashes. And behold the king of Na-
 narre watcheth vpon the conseruation
 therof, beware ye sleepe not in your mi-
 series, when carefully you shoulde looke
 for the meanes to make vs all to take
 rest in y^e sweetnes of peace. Otherwile
 my masters looke for nothing but Gods
 indgements against your hardened hearts,
 and for the fire of your seditions which
 you haue kindled, the flame of condem-
 nation which neuer will be quenched,
 also y^e like punishment as Chore, Da-
 than and Abiram, for going about to
 diuide the Lords Tabernacle. For my
 part I will get me to my owne home,
 as into a safe port, from whence I may
 behold your shipwacke, and if in short
 space I can not see you disposed to your
 safetie, and that by your industry these
 warres do continue, I protest to yeld
 my selfe to these princes, to encurre like
 fortune as they, vntill they haue reaped
 the fruits of those labors which you laie
 vpon them, which shalbe a peace crow-
 ned with contentation, by the helpe of
 God, whom I beseech, my masters, to
 enspire you with his grace, and gene-
 rallie to take pitie of his Church,

**The King of Navarre song after
his victorie.**

Since that my hands in victorie,
thy puissance (Lord) did know:
My toong shall not in silence rest,
till glory thine it show.

That forces theirs did not abate,
our courage ought at all:
Did shew that thou didst vs protect,
whereby their strength was small.

Their numbers great like dust in skie,
which winde drives here and there:
Thine Angell did disperse abroad,
so that we nought did feare.

And those who did their honour build,
vpon my fall, whose pride
All men adored, I soone beheld,
distressed far and wide.

Which wonder strange to conquer those,
before I seemed to fight:
Doth shew that all our conquests comes,
through thy great power and might.

For as the rage of furious waues,
against the Rocke do breake:
So did their forces through thy helpe,
gainst ours sustaine the wreak e.

Their courage great, puffed vp with hope,
exceedingly did swell:
Their pride did mount vnto the heauens,
from whence their ruine fell.

The King of Nauars song

The eye which blood and murder sought,
and throat which open laie
To blasphemy, full gorged is,
with venome for their paie.

My heart (O Lord) full ioyfull is,
to see thy foes downe cast :
Who laide the gins wherein them selues,
were game and praie at last.

They me pursued without a cause,
but they ouertaken were :
The knots of their deuises cut,
and iust rewards did beare.

So to repress the like outrage,
the Lords strong arme we neede :
Who faileth none which do him trust,
but paies the bad their meede.

The lēgth of tūme which brought our weale,
through our desert made short :
And God our cries did not neglect,
though we did his in sport.

Wherefore (O Lord) cry still and pearce
mine eares, vntill thy voice
I heare, and learne thee to obey,
in whom I may reioice.

Giue strength that in like dangers we
amazed may not go :
And as thou hast begun so ende,
each worke the end doth show.

F I N I S.

(5)
A true Coppie of a
Letter intercepted being
lately sent vnto Sixtus Pope
f Rome, by those of the
Sorbonne at Paris.

R. B.
Translated out of Latin.



LONDON
Printed by Iohn Wolfe.